

# The Seattle Times



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AWWSP Team Office

Jill R. Mackie  
Director of External Affairs

May 27, 2004

Allison Ray  
Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project Office  
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424  
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Seattle Times Company comments on the SR-99 Alaska Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Ms. Ray:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SR-99 Alaska Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Draft EIS. The Seattle Times Company has reviewed the Draft EIS and has identified a specific concern relating to the options being considered for a "lowered Aurora." Specifically, the "lowered Aurora" option would construct an overpass on a number of east-west streets including Thomas Street.

The Seattle Times Company operates a newspaper publishing, production and circulation facility that fronts on Thomas Street between Boren and Fairview. This is a 24 hour per day operation involving continual loading and unloading of trucks of all sizes. Many of these deliveries involve semi-trucks with trailers, which back into the Seattle Times facility and block portions of Thomas during their unloading cycle. There is no practical alternative for movement of these operations away from Thomas except to consider another location.

The Seattle Times Company is concerned that the construction of a Thomas Street Overpass at Aurora will create a greatly heightened use of Thomas between Aurora and Fairview/Eastlake. Indeed, we understand the purpose of this overpass alternative is to direct traffic on to these east-west streets. This heightened use would be very detrimental to the Seattle Times Company's ability to continue production and circulation activities at the Thomas location. We believe elimination of the Thomas Overpass with an emphasis on converting Harrison Street to an east-west feeder would be greatly preferable.

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The Seattle Times Company would urge the project team to consider the extremely negative impact a Thomas Street Overpass would have on the operation of our Thomas Street facility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jill Mackie  
Director of External Affairs  
JM/sja

cc: Carolyn Kelly, Seattle Times President and COO  
Frank Paiva, Seattle Times Vice President of Operations  
Eric Tweit, City of Seattle, Department of Transportation